

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF
UNITED KINGDOM TO ESTABLISH
INQUIRY INTO MURDER OF
NORTHERN IRELAND DEFENSE
ATTORNEY PAT FINUCANE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution introduced by my friend from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH.

I was proud to join my colleagues as an original cosponsor of this important statement by the House of Representatives.

While the peace process in the north of Ireland has been moving along, but unfortunately, not at the pace many of us had hoped for after the acceptance of the Good Friday Agreement by all parties, it is still moving forward.

We saw one example of the process moving forward when all the political parties of the north met on Monday for the first time since the Assembly was suspended 3½ years ago.

I believe these political parties must overcome all of the obstacles for the sake of the people they were elected to represent in November of 2002.

They must elect new ministers to give the people of the north the representational government that they have sought out.

But beyond the issue of setting up the assembly, one of the important things about any peace process is making sure that past atrocities have been fully investigated and the people, who committed them be held responsible, which is why this resolution is so important for the peace process.

The violence that occurred before and after the signing of the historic Good Friday Agreement still remains fresh in the minds of the victim's families and the public as a whole.

To bring about a better trust between the people of the north, the British and Irish Governments agreed to hold public inquiries into high profile murders of human rights defenders like Pat Finucane.

It is time for the British to allow the truth to come out.

The family of Pat Finucane deserves to know the full extent of collusion that existed and caused the death of this husband and father.

The British must live up to their obligations under the Weston Park Agreement and the commitment they made if Judge Cory found evidence warranting a full independent inquiry.

It is time for an independent, judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST ARMER
N. BURKART

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a hero and a patriot who was killed while defending our Nation

in Iraq. Army Specialist Armer N. Burkart died this week when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

This brave 26-year-old soldier was serving as a gunner with the 1st Battalion of the 10th Division based at Fort Drum in New York. Prior to this tour in Iraq, Specialist Burkart served for nearly a year in Afghanistan.

Specialist Burkart's father, John, says that Armer "was proud to be in the Army. He volunteered for combat. . . he had a nice safe position which he chose to give up." This extraordinary young man had always wanted to be in the Army, following in his grandfathers' tradition of military service in the Navy. In fact, even as a high school student, he served in the ROTC.

America should be grateful for Armer Burkart's honorable service, and we should all remember the heroism of the other men and women who have been serving by his side. America should also be grateful to the loving families these servicemen and women leave behind. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Specialist Burkart's wife, father, and younger brother, as they do to the others who selflessly give of their family time that our Nation and our world may be safe and free.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GARY PURDUE,
MD, FACS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gary Purdue, MD, FACS, is one of my constituents performing life-saving work at the Burn Center at Parkland Health and Hospital System. In addition to his work at Parkland, Dr. Purdue is Professor of Surgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and is also a Professor of Anesthesiology and Plastic Surgery. In addition to these achievements, he has served as the President of the American Burn Association and spearheaded efforts to improve research into the treatment of burn injuries, worked to increase critical funding in the field, and furthered the cause of education for the prevention of devastating burn injuries.

Dr. Purdue's work as leader of the ABA is significant because this is the organization that sets the industry standard for this challenging specialization within the field of medicine. Burn professionals, physicians, nurses, fire fighters and emergency personnel practice in every state of the union, playing a significant role in this country's response to emergencies, including terrorism risks which are now part of our world.

The Burn Center at Parkland has been an ACS/ABA verified burn center since 1996, and the integrated in and out patient rehabilitation program gives the burn team a very strong presence treating over 600 new acute burn patients each year. Dr. Purdue's research interests include development and maintenance of a single center 14,500 patient database, causation of injury and high risk patients. He has had over 150 articles published in peer review journals and books.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Purdue on his valuable contributions to the field of burn injury treatment, an

area I have had personal experiences with, and to apprise my colleagues of the American Burn Association and urge them to work with the burn centers and burn professionals in their own districts and states.

A TRIBUTE TO OCTAVIA E.
BUTLER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Octavia E. Butler. Ms. Butler will be greatly missed. The world of literature lost a literary genius whose novels and short stories broke the conventional expectations of African Americans, women, and science fiction writers.

Ms. Butler was a Pasadena, California native who attended John Muir High School. She graduated from Pasadena City College in 1968. Octavia spent most of her adult life in the Pasadena/Altadena area where she lived until just a few years ago when she moved to Seattle, Washington. While Octavia's fans have marveled over her extraordinary literary creations, those who knew her as a friend also marveled at her ability to remain down to earth and unmoved by fame. As an adult, Ms. Butler had traveled all over the world, from the Amazon to Russia, to gather authentic material for her books.

Ms. Butler was an internationally acclaimed science fiction author whose novels explored pressing issues such as race, gender, slavery, poverty, and politics. In 1995, she became the first science fiction writer to receive a \$295,000 genius grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She also received two Hugo Awards and two Nebula Awards for her science fiction works. During her funeral service, on March 11, 2006, the Pasadena City Mayor's office read a proclamation that declared March 17, 2006, to be Octavia Butler Day.

Octavia is the author of many novels, including Patternmaster, Adulthood Rite, Mind of My Mind, and Kindred. For many years, Kindred, which is Pasadena's "One City, One Story" choice this year, was required reading at John Muir High School. The program is designed to broaden and deepen the appreciation for reading.

I ask all Members of the United States House of Representatives to pause to honor a great woman, Octavia E. Butler, who inspired so many people through her words and her vision. She will be missed not only by her family, but by all who were fortunate enough to cross her path or enjoy her novels.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR OF THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF FLOYD BEN-
NETT FIELD

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of Floyd Bennett Field.

Floyd Bennett Field proudly served as New York City's first municipal airport, opening on May 23, 1931 with modern facilities and strong concrete runways. During the "Golden Age" of aviation, this airfield captured the imagination of the public and was the site of many legendary flights with spectators cheering on the accomplishments of aviators named Wiley Post, Howard Hughes, and Amelia Earhart.

In 1942 our country was at war, and Floyd Bennett Field was called into duty. Under the U.S. Navy, this airstrip served our country as a Naval Air Station which provided vital support to our troops as it recruited and trained pilots, tested planes, provided cargo transport, and performed sea rescues. Floyd Bennett Field became the first helicopter training facility in the world and is the longest continuously used law enforcement aviation unit in the world, currently housing the New York City Police Department Aviation Unit.

In 1972, after years of neglect and in the midst of municipal financial woes, Floyd Bennett Field as turned over to the National Park Service and again set records by becoming the first of the urban national parks. Since then, we have seen a resurgence in activity as the National Park Service finds new ways to invite in the public while preserving the history of the sites and tales of the past. Floyd Bennett Field now hosts an array of activities including hiking, cross-country skiing, camping, field sports, bird-watching, canoeing, and archery.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I recognize this anniversary milestone and challenge the National Park Service to maintain this field in a way that continues to benefit my constituents and the city of New York.

BURMESE MILITARY ATROCITIES

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise the awareness of this Congress of the ongoing atrocities being committed by the Burmese military junta. I am deeply disturbed by what appears to be the largest attacks in 10 years on ethnic minorities in eastern Burma. Eastern Burma is a humanitarian nightmare. According to the Thailand-Burma Border Consortium, over the past 10 years, the military junta has destroyed or forcibly relocated over 2,700 villages. Not a single humanitarian relief agency is allowed into the area, not a single journalist is permitted to record the facts, and not a single U.N. official is permitted to meet, let alone protect, those on the run in Burma's eastern jungles. Even in Sudan aid agencies, journalists, and representatives of the United Nations and African Union are allowed—not so in eastern Burma.

It is time for the United States to press the U.N. Security Council to pass a binding resolution requiring change in Burma.

It is true that not all members of the Council will initially agree on the language and substance of such a proposal, and it is no secret that Russia and China have opposed the use of sanctions or military intervention in Burma.

We have listened to their points, and that is not what we are asking for.

Surely all Council members must agree that it is our collective responsibility to stop these attacks on innocent civilians and to facilitate true national reconciliation in Burma. The U.N. Security Council said so itself on April 28th when it stated in its new resolution that "the Council reaffirmed its strongest condemnation of all acts of violence or abuses committed against civilians in situations of armed conflict." By not addressing the situations in Burma, the United Nations Security Council is failing its own mandate and undermining the U.N. Charter.

We cannot remain silent. We cannot stand by and wait for someone else to provide leadership, if none is being provided. Leaders of the United States, United Nations and elsewhere should state publicly that it is time for a U.N. Security Council resolution on Burma. As the rainy season approaches in eastern Burma, many lives are at risk. We must act now.

TRIBUTE TO DARYL C. BROWN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who serves as a great illustration of all the good that is being done in our public school systems. Daryl C. Brown is the principal of Carvers Bay High School located in Hemingway, South Carolina, one of the schools I proudly represent in this body.

Renowned educator and native South Carolinian Mary McLeod Bethune once said, "Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough." The continued success of our public schools requires not just a financial investment, but also an investment in the lives of our young people. Mr. Brown's work exemplifies Dr. Bethune's mandate. Charged with the challenging task of combining two rival high schools, he so successfully managed the consolidation that the biggest obstacle was selecting the school colors. On the first day of school, he held an assembly where he showed students a newspaper article predicting that the school would not be a success. He forcefully disputed that assertion, saying that Carvers Bay would become a blue ribbon school, a prediction that was met with a rousing ovation from students and staff. Well on its way to that distinction, the school has made impressive gains on test scores, added AP classes, and started an ROTC program considered one of the best in the area.

An innovative leader who is often the first in the district to experiment with new strategies, Mr. Brown created a Freshman Academy to ease the transition from middle school, even designating a separate wing for the program. He also began an initiative to provide breakfast for all of his students, making Carvers Bay one of the few high schools with such a program. Though his students have dubbed him "Papa Bear" after the school mascot, the profound transformation he has led at Carvers Bay is no fairy tale.

Mr. Brown's dedication and commitment have not gone unnoticed. The Milken Family Foundation awarded him this year with one of the most prestigious awards in teaching—the

Milken Educator Award. Referred to as the "Oscars of Teaching," by Teacher Magazine the Milken Family Foundation's National Educator Award is given each year to approximately 100 of the most outstanding teachers and principals in states across the country. This prestigious recognition, which began in 1987, comes with a cash award of \$25,000 for each recipient. These awards pay homage to the importance of quality teachers and to the significance of the teaching profession.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the enormous public service of Mr. Daryl C. Brown. We also congratulate him on his recognition as a Milken Family Foundation National Educator. Our Nation prospers because of individuals like him.

HONORING NATE GOODEN'S UNITED AUTO WORKER RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nate Gooden's outstanding service at the UAW. Nate Gooden and I go back to the beginning of his career and our involvement in the coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Since he first became a UAW member in 1964, Nate has remained a loyal activist. Like a true warrior, Nate has confronted those who frustrate the goal of creating a full employment society. He has consistently stood with me in my efforts to create and sustain a full employment system. He has also provided unwavering support for H.R. 676, a bill I introduced calling for a national universal health care system. As we currently seek to extend the Voting Rights Act, Nate has once again provided his strong voice of endorsement.

Nate's effective approach has always been the same. He has distinguished himself as being friendly but firm in negotiations, and this made him the "go to guy" at the UAW. In the best tradition of the labor movement, Nate's advocacy on behalf of auto workers has given an economic lift to so many. His good-natured personality and tremendous leadership will be sorely missed.

The Nate Gooden resolution follows:

TESTIMONIAL RESOLUTION HONORING NATE GOODEN

Whereas, Mr. Nate Gooden, was born in Detroit on April 14, 1938, has been a United Auto Worker ("UAW") member since 1964, was appointed as an international representative on the Region 1 staff in 1977, was, first elected the UAW International Executive Board Vice President in 1999, and was re-elected in 2006; and

Whereas, Mr. Nate Gooden, was nominated as UAW's representative to the Supervisory Board of DaimlerChrysler AG in 2002, is the Director of the UAW's DaimlerChrysler Department, and is co-chair of the Joint Activities Board that operates the UAW-DaimlerChrysler National Training Center; and

Whereas, Mr. Nate Gooden, directs the UAW Heavy Trucks Department and the UAW Transplants, Transnationals, and Joint Ventures Department; and

Whereas, Mr. Nate Gooden, directed successful negotiations with Freightliner in 2000, directed the UAW's national contract